

Recommendations and Problems

Monthly Reports for May 1959

CARTOGRAPHY DIVISION

Far East Compilation Branch

Map No. 13770, Sinkiang: Terrain and Transportation was entered on our books 30 March 1955. It was entered in drafting on 14 March 1957. It has had irregular progress since that time and has been partially revised on the basis of new material becoming available during this period. However, it has been in drafting since early 1958 following the revision and has made but little progress during the last year. The reasons for the delay are easily rationalized but it is felt that serious consideration should be given to assigning a priority to the job and getting it out into the hands of intelligence officers who can make good use of it.

Originally this map was to go with a report, but the report has been delayed by CG and work on the map has been slowed correspondingly. The situation in the area is such however that it warrants completion of the map as it stands and issuing it without waiting for the report. At such time as the report comes out, additional copies can be produced for that purpose but in the meantime the map can be available for use.

This map is the only known on-sheet desk size map of Sinkiang of up-to-date compilation that is in sight. Its value as an intelligence tool is such that it stands on its own merits and should not wait upon the production of a report to be made available to the consumers. Events in western China in the past few years indicate a considerable degree of instability and the best map available should be placed in use; an uprising like that in Tibet would catch us without a satisfactory map of Sinkiang. This map is also a companion map to the one of Tibet which has been in existence for some time. In conversations with DD/P personnel concerning the special project the Division is doing [REDACTED] we have been told that they are quite anxious to have a map [REDACTED] such as that which is lying partially completed in our hands.

It is requested, therefore, that a high priority be given to map. no. [REDACTED] and that it be pushed through to completion with a minimum of delay.

USSR-Satellites Compilation Branch

NIS Proofing Costs: The increase in number of items being requested for Chapter VI raises the question of proofing costs. The question is the degree of responsibility D/GC has in this matter.

General Cost Monitoring: This same question of D/GC responsibility is raised by requests from D/S/COMM, with the approval of St/PB, for transparent overlays in color to be bound into standard ORR reports. It is felt that any questionable gain in graphic effectiveness does not warrant the considerable increase in costs that would result from such graphics.

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GEOGRAPHY DIVISION

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The timing of the reorganization of the Editing and Review Staff is unfortunate since it precedes the end of the fiscal year by only one month, since [REDACTED] begins a 5-week period of annual leave on 15 June, and since [REDACTED] will be serving on jury duty during all of June.

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The workload of the Far East/Pacific Branch is becoming increasingly affected by a multiplicity of new and extraordinary tasks. Examples include the steering of the Southeast Asia Discussion Group, chairmanship of the GRA War Plans Task Force, and assistance in the field of training. While these are gratifying and probably inevitable manifestations of professional growth, it is imperative that management echelons be aware of the fact that such activities are significant consumers of manpower and the normal work program suffers.

The need for additional clerical/typing assistance is becoming acute. The USSR and Near East/Africa Branches are without assistance except as given by the "front office" where after the first week of June there will be only two typists. These two typists have been able to devote little time to anything but the NIS for the last two to three months.

Editing and Review Staff

The only problems are associated with the transfer of GG/R work to the newly organized Publications Staff, ORR. The only details considered to date concern budget requirements.

Europe Branch

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The assignment of [REDACTED] on TDY for 3 months to the Sov.-Sat. Map Procurement Project in D/GL was effective on 25 May. [REDACTED] absence requires the doubling up by other members of the Branch. If another individual is to follow [REDACTED] this doubling up will continue. With one other member of the Branch, [REDACTED] working on the Kurd Problem, a study not related to the Satellites, Branch Activity will necessarily be restricted as a considerable portion of the available man-hours must be allotted to mere intelligence maintenance.

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MAP LIBRARY DIVISION

Processing Branch

Temporary arrangements for typing assistance to meet the publication schedule for the Acquisitions List for Maps of Foreign Areas continued for the third month. Typing service at the clerical pool, normally utilized, will not be resumed until 15 June.